IX. *Extract of a Letter from* Andrew Cantwell, *M. D.* Monſpel. *to Dr.* Stack, *dated at* Montpellier, June 23. 1732. *N. S. Containing an Account of a large* Glandular Tumor *in the* Pelvis; *and of the* pernicious Effects *of* crude Mercury *given inwardly to the Patient.*

ON the 7th Inſtant, I was called hence to *Balleruc*, to viſit an *Engliſh* Gentleman, who was ill there. In the Houſe where he lodg'd, was one *P——r M——n*, born in *France*, but ſettled in *Cadiz*. This poor Gentleman, having been very ill theſe two or three Years laſt paſt, had loſt the Uſe of his Left Leg and Thigh, was ſubject to frequent Head-achs and Pains in his Bones, but more eſpecially in his Legs: For which, becauſe he had been given to Women, his Phyſicians in *Cadiz* ſalivated him twice, ſent him to ſeveral hot Waters, and gave him all the Remedies they could imagine, but to no Purpoſe; for his Illneſs increaſing, he had from time to time great Difficulty of making Water, and going to Stool. In this Condition he came from *Spain* to *Marſeilles*, and from thence was ſent to the Waters of *Balleruc*, of which he drank a great Quantity. But as they did not paſs, his Phyſician there order'd him ſtrong Purges, with Clyſters of a Decoction of *Tobacco*, and the like. He then began to vomit his Excrements; upon which the Phyſician to the Marquis of *C———*'s Regiment in *Spain*, who happen'd to be there, order'd him half

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a Pound of crude *Mercury* by the Mouth, which made him ſuffer the moſt exquiſite Pains; and his Belly ſwell'd, and became as ſtiff as a Drum. Here Dr. *Montagne* was ſent for, who ſoon diſcover'd the Error in the preceding Practice, by feeling a ſolid Body near the *Rectum*, which obſtructing the Paſſage, hinder'd the Clyſter-pipe from entering far enough into the Gut. After his Departure, the Patient was again order'd Clyſters, which were injected with a crooked Pipe, and ſeveral Purges; till at the End of eight Days he died, having his Belly bigger, ſtiffer and harder than ever. Though I arriv'd the Day before his Death, I ſaw him not till after he expir'd. His Phyſician having invited me to open the Body, I willingly conſented, curious as I was to find the ſolid Reſiſtance or Tumor, which he could give no Account of. I ſent for the Surgeon of the Village, who with a *Biſtouri* (the only anatomical Inſtrument he had) open'd the *Abdomen* by my Directions, which was fill'd with a whitiſh Liquor of ſome Conſiſtence. The *Epiploon* was all diſſolv'd, and ſwam in this Liquor like ſo much *Pus*. This Water pour'd out, I examin'd the Inteſtines. The *Colon* was burſt under the Stomach, and in three other Places at its lower Part; and ſo was the *Coecum*; the *Ileum* all inflam'd, and in one Part gangren'd. The Lips of the Ruptures were plaiſter'd with Excrements, all beſet with a prodigious Number of Globules of Quickſilver; and when the Inteſtines were diſengaged and taken out, the Quickſilver fell from them in large Drops. The other *Viſcera* were in the natural State, except the Liver, which was gangren'd. As I was very ſolicitous about the Tumor, I look'd into the *Pelvis*, where I found an Excreſcence

of

of a prodigious Size, which fill'd all its Left Side. I took the Knife, and clear'd all round the Tumor; whereby I found the urinary Bladder cloſe pent up between the anterior Part of the Tumor and the *Oſſa pubis*, which occaſion'd the Strangury the Patient had been tormented with: The *Rectum*, which lay upon the Middle of the *Os ſacrum*, was alſo vaſtly preſs'd on by the Tumor, which ſeem'd to take its Riſe from the Holes that are in the Left Side of that Bone. The Surgeon was ſo unluckily impatient, that while I laid down the Knife, in order to ſeparate the *Oſſa pubis* with a Hatchet, he cut out the Tumor. I then examin'd the *Os ſacrum*, which was ſo very ſoft, that my Fingers enter'd it every where on the Left Side. The Tumor is of an ovoide Figure, cover'd over with ſeveral Membranes: Its Weight is two Pound and an half; its longeſt Axis is five Inches and ſomewhat more than three quarters, *French* Meaſure; its ſhorteſt four Inches three quarters. At firſt Sight I took it for a *Parenchyma*, but, upon Diſſection, found it analogous to the Liver in Subſtance, Colour and Conſiſtence. Its Artery, Vein and Nerve are very big, and are diſtributed through its whole Subſtance: Wherefore I really take it to be one of the conglobate Glands of the *Pelvis*, whoſe Veſſels yielding to the Blood impell'd thither with greater Force and in larger Quantity than uſual, on account of the violent Exerciſes of Dancing, Jumping, *&c.* which the Patient very much practis'd, gave Room to its Increaſe to that enormous Size. Upon opening, I remark'd three very apparent Diviſions in it: And where the *Pſoas* lay over it, and one of the *Pyramidales* beat upon it, it was oſſified. I preſerve it in Brandy, and find that the ſmall Veſſels, that

that were moſt fill'd with Blood, preſs it out into the Interſtices of the neighbouring ones.

The Weight the Patient conſtantly complain'd of at his Left Hip; the Difficulty he had in going to Stool, and that of thruſting a Syringe far enough into the *Rectum* to give him a Clyſter with any Succeſs; the Tumor itſelf, which was eaſily felt upon putting the Finger into the *Anus*; together with the Palſy of the Left Leg and Thigh, might, I think, have given other Indications to the Phyſicians, than thoſe they took. And, in my humble Opinion, the Frictions and other heating Medicines the Patient was ply'd with, contributed to augment his Illneſs. In fine, the crude *Mercury* he ſwallow'd, the vaſt Quantity of *Balleruc* Water he drank before it, with the ſtrong Cathartics taken by the Mouth and *Anus*, ſeem to have cut him ſhort of ſome Months, which he might have liv'd, had he uſed no other Remedies than a ſlender relaxing Diet.

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